| NWS Form E-5<br>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE<br>NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION<br>NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE<br>**MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS** | **HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA:**<br>**Pocatello, Idaho**<br>**REPORT FOR:**<br>**MONTH: February YEAR: 2005** |
|---|---|
| **TO:**<br>Hydrologic Operations Division, W/OH2<br>National Weather Service<br>National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration<br>Silver Spring, Maryland 20910 | **SIGNATURE**<br>Sherrie Hebert:<br>(In Charge of Hydrologic Service Area)<br>**DATE** March 10, 2005 |
| When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924). | |

**X** **An X in this box indicates that no flooding has occurred for the month within this hydrologic service area.**

Eastern Idaho's winter is wrapping up as another sad winter with respect to precipitation. February took a drastic dive with most of Eastern Idaho's Hydrologic Service Area receiving far less than normal precipitation for the month. The outcome? Once again, drought will be the topic at hand for the remainder of the 2005 Water Year.

## Other Hydrologic Interests

### Precipitation

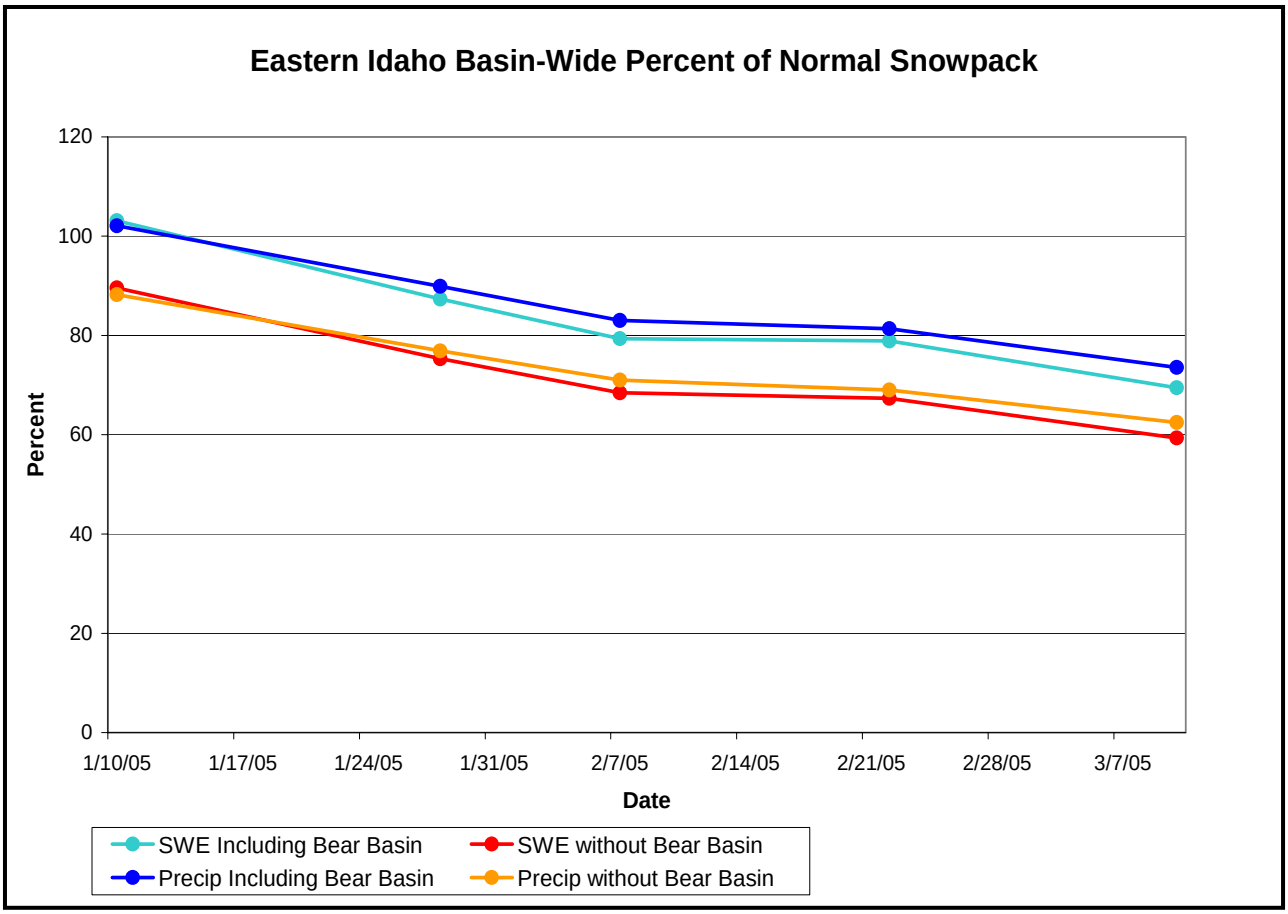
February precipitation for the Pocatello HSA was 49.1% of normal for 36 of 42 reporting stations with climate data, according to Western Region Climate Center data. Nearly half of the reporting stations' precipitation was 50% or less than normal precipitation, with six stations receiving 20% or less than normal. The stations are in the table below. Arco tied the low precipitation record last set in 1967.

| Station Name | Precip (inches) | Normal (inches) | Percent of Normal |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oakley | 0.13 | 0.65 | 20.0 |
| Dubois | 0.11 | 0.72 | 15.3 |
| Idaho Falls 46 W | 0.05 | 0.62 | 8.1 |
| Ketchum Ranger Station | 0.16 | 1.99 | 8.0 |
| Mackay Ranger Station | 0.04 | 0.61 | 6.6 |
| Arco Airport | 0.00 | 0.88 | 0.0 |

Only three stations received above normal precip for the month: Swan Valley at 139.6%, Craters of the Moon at 109.6% and Blackfoot at 106.3% of normal.

## Snowpack

Eastern Idaho snowpack has consistently been declining since the beginning of January, when the most recent abundant snow fell. The graph below tells the story as snowpack was above normal the beginning of January and has rapidly dwindled. When including the Bear Basin's 100% of normal water year precipitation, the average is 74% of normal. When not including the Bear Basin, average water year precipitation is 62%, revealing the true nature of the Upper Snake River Basin.




## Reservoirs

The Upper Snake River reservoir system is at 49% of capacity[1], up 7% from February 10, 2005.

| Reservoir | % Capacity January 31 [2] | % Capacity February 28 [3] | Percent Change | % of Average[3] | % of Last Year[3] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| American Falls | 59 | 70 | 11 | 92 | 115 |
| Bear Lake | 9 | 10 | 1 | 15 | 89 |
| Blackfoot | 10 | 11 | 1 | 18 | 129 |
| Henry's Lake | 73 | 74 | 1 | 80 | 96 |
| Island Park | 59 | 64 | 5 | 81 | 103 |
| Little Wood | 43 | 52 | 9 | 88 | 109 |
| Mackay | 44 | 51 | 7 | 74 | 109 |
| Magic | 12 | 13 | 1 | 29 | 109 |
| Oakley | 16 | 19 | 3 | 46 | 136 |
| Palisades | 41 | 45 | 4 | 61 | 123 |
| Ririe | 40 | 41 | 1 | 86 | 111 |
| Lake Walcott | 18[4] | 19[5] | 1 | n/a | n/a |

Source: (1) US Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), March 10, 2005; (2) NRCS, January 31, 2005; (3) NRCS, February 28, 2005; (4) BOR, February 10, 2005; (5) BOR, March 10, 2005.

**Drought**
Eastern Idaho remains entirely in the D3, “Extreme” and D4, “Exceptional” categories on the US Drought Monitor. Low soil moisture, low SWSI values, a persistent ridge and above-normal temperature and below-normal precipitation outlooks leave little to no room for relief in the near future.

**Hydrologic Product Summary**
No hydrologic products were issued in January.

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